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## BORN AGAIN

*The 200 year old Ayana Fort Kochi hotel gets a modern update with contemporary interiors that fuse art deco with Indian sensibilities*



Clockwise, from Top In the lobby: The uniformly black and white floor was created using traditional Indian cement tiles. While the lamp is from a 150 year old Trichur temple, purchased from Indian Heritage Arts, all furniture was custom made in Bengaluru; Next to the vase from Indian Heritage Arts is a bespoke sofa, again put together in Bengaluru; The exteriors of the structure were restored by Bengaluru based architect Amitha Madan



# NEW LOOKS



ELLE  
DECOR  
LOVES

THE 200 YEAR OLD  
STRUCTURE WAS USED  
AS A COURTHOUSE, BANK  
AND EVEN A SOUK FOR  
TEA AND SPICES



Imagine stepping into a hotel and travelling back in time to the '50s – this is what it feels like at Ayana Fort Kochi, a 16 room boutique getaway centrally located in Fort Kochi. The 200 year old structure was used as a courthouse, bank and even a souk for tea and spices. In its new avatar as a retreat, the edifice provides shelter to weary travellers post their excursions to nearby areas. The interiors were given a new lease of life under the supervision of Kavita Premnarayan, Design Director of Ayana Hospitality and the exterior face-lift was the labour of Bengaluru based architect Amitha Madan of Infinity Design Corp. While the space might be heavily influenced by the art deco style, it also reflects a heady mix of “old Indian” sensibilities. “I wanted this project to stand out in terms of design and to feel a little more luxurious while retaining its “Indianness”,” explains Kavita. Most of the furniture and artworks were sourced from local antique shops, including the 7 ft tall stacked diya in the lobby. A black and white chequered floor follows you throughout – right from the reception all the way to the rooms. Artworks by renowned and upcoming creatives such as T Vaikuntam and Sakti Burman adorn the walls at Ayana Fort Kochi, an extension of the philosophy it embodies, of encouraging native talent. ◆ **Tasneem Merchant**

Clockwise, from Top The Deluxe room features a bespoke king-sized four poster bed while the soothing green hue matches the calm, verdant exteriors; The primarily ivory wash space of the Luxury Suite; The furniture in the lounge area of the same room hearkens back to a bygone era  
Photographs courtesy Ayana Fort Kochi